

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of September 4, 2007. Initially, the Examiner is thanked for stating that claim 19 contains allowable subject matter. Original claims 1-10 were cancelled and claims 11-27 were added to this case via a Preliminary Amendment dated February 14, 2005. However, claims 11-22 were chosen for initial prosecution in an Election dated May 15, 2007. The Applicants have amended claims 11 and 21-22 and cancelled claims 17-19 and 23-27 herewith. Claims 23-27 are the previously non-elected apparatus claims and the Applicants reserve their right to file a divisional application directed to these claims. Thus, claims 11-16 and 20-22 are now pending in the present application and claim 11 is in independent form.

Claim Objections

Claim 21 is objected to because the phrase "the volatile substances are" should be replaced with "headspace sample is". Further, claim 22 is objected to because it is unclear what the acronym "ECD" represents. The acronym "ECD" represents an "electron capture detector". Claims 21 and 22 have been amended accordingly and, therefore, withdrawal of these claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement, because the Examiner asserts that gas chromatographs do not perform "qualitative" analysis. As such, the term "qualitative" has been deleted from the claim accordingly and, therefore, withdrawal of this claim rejection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 11, 14-15, 17-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for asserted obviousness by "Flavor/Fragrance Profiles of Instant Coffee and Ground Coffee by Short Path Thermal Desorption" to Overton et al. (hereinafter, "Overton et al.") in view of United States Patent 5,545,879 to Brotz (hereinafter, "Brotz"), United States Patent 6,395,560 to Markelov (hereinafter, "Markelov"), United States Patent 5,711,786 to Hinshaw (hereinafter, "Hinshaw"), and "Analysis of trace gases at ppb levels by proton transfer reaction mass spectrometry (PTR-MS)" to Lindinger et al. (hereinafter, "Lindinger et al").

Further, claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for asserted obviousness by Overton et al., Brotz, Markelov, Hinshaw and Lindinger et al. as applied to

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claim 11 above, and further in view of United States Patent 5,266,496 to Dacruz.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for asserted obviousness by Overton et al., Brotz, Markelov, Hinshaw, and Lindinger et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of United States Patent 6,537,802 to Alocilja et al.

Finally, claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for asserted obviousness by Overton et al., Brotz, Markelov, Hinshaw, and Lindinger et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of United States Patent Application 2002/0127317 to Hotchkiss et al.

In light of the claim amendments contained herein, the Applicants submit that these rejections are now moot and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

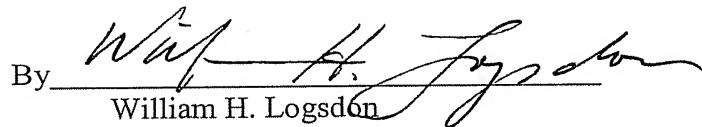
Allowable Subject Matter

As discussed above, the Examiner has stated that claim 19 contains allowable subject matter. Thus, the Applicants have incorporated the language of claims 17-19 into independent claim 11 and cancelled claims 17-19 accordingly. Remaining claims 12-16 and 20-22 depend directly or indirectly from, and add further limitations to, amended independent claim 11. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that all of pending claims 11-16 and 20-22 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 11-16 and 20-22 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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